

# Soviet Pullout Accord With Czechs Reported

## Kremlin To Withdraw Troops This Year Because Of Husak Guarantees, Yugoslavs Hear

By STUART R. SMITH  
[Bonn Bureau of The Sun]

Bonn, April 25—The Kremlin has agreed to withdraw all its occupation troops from Czechoslovakia within the next year in return for Gustav Husak's guarantees of Communist orthodoxy in Prague, informed sources stated today.

What is more, Moscow reportedly also will permit new Czechoslovak National Assembly elections and the 14th Czechoslovak Communist congress, before the end of the year.

### Talks In Moscow

The agreement is thought to have been achieved during talks this week in the Soviet capital between Kremlin leaders and Mr. Husak, the new Czechoslovak party chief.

Tanjug, the official Yugoslav news agency which is usually well informed about Communist affairs, reported from Moscow today that a Russian troop-withdrawal timetable will be announced shortly.

Quoting what it called reliable sources, Tanjug said the Soviet Union wants to demonstrate its support of the new Prague leadership and contribute to what Soviet officials call the Czechoslovak "normalization."

Tanjug did not say how soon the occupation troops would be recalled, but Czechoslovak sources said they would all leave within 12 months.

During the week, Mr. Husak has been conferring with the other Warsaw Pact leaders who are in Moscow for a summit conference of the Communist Economic Council, the Eastern European common market.

Mr. Husak is said to have assured the Kremlin of his desire to demonstrate Czechoslovakia's loyalty to its Communist allies and to give the Soviet Union no cause for future offense.

### Promise To Svoboda

This would indicate a continuing clampdown on the Czechoslovak press and countermeasures against all agitation for democratic reforms.

On the other hand, Czechoslovak sources said Mr. Husak has promised President Ludvik Svoboda and other top Czech leaders that he will permit no illegal arrests or other political harassment.

A gradual end to the Czechoslovak occupation would be very welcome to Moscow if it occurred on its terms. Aside from Russian generals, some Soviet leaders, particularly the Kremlin ideologists, are hoping for a rapid solution so that the June international Communist congress does not end in a total fiasco.

Moreover, those Soviet officials who still expect to reach an understanding with the Nixon administration realize it will be difficult while Russian troops still are in Czechoslovakia.

### Would Hold Husak

There are some Eastern European commentators who believe the June congress in Moscow is already a lost cause and that the United States government will talk turkey with Moscow irrespective of what happens in Czechoslovakia.

But a Soviet withdrawal would help Mr. Husak immeasurably. *Rude Pravo*, the official Czechoslovak party paper, itself admitted this morning that some local Communist organizations are withholding their support from the new leadership.

In the Kladno area, an industrialized district west of Prague, "there have appeared isolated cases, even a certain hesitation, over whether it would be right to express support" for Mr. Husak, the daily reported. *Rude Pravo* could well worry, for its miners and factory workers had put great hope in Alexander Dubcek, and his reform program.

### Two Blank Columns

But loyalty to Mr. Dubcek is no excuse for failing to back Mr. Husak, *Rude Pravo* argued.

The latest issue of *Obrada*, the Czechoslovak People's party bi-weekly, appeared with two blank columns and a small note: "Most of you spend five minutes reading the usual commentary. Today we propose that you

spend five minutes in thought. *Rude Pravo* upbraided the paper for its "foolishness," charging it with prompting "speculations and fabrications" and trying "to give the impression that the two blank columns were cut out by the censor."